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fastener].

REMARKS

The Office Action dated 09/25/00, together with the references included therein, has been carefully reviewed.

The disclosure is objected to for the reasons stated in the Office Action. Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 for the reasons stated in the Office Action. Claims 1-20 stand rejected as being unpatentable, with patent Number 6,042,607 to Williamson, et al being cited as evidence in support of the conclusion that the invention defined in Claims 1-20 is not patentable under the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §103 as well as under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting (the patent cited in the Office Action is 6,047,607; however, it will be assumed that the Office Action meant 6,042,607 since the 6,047,607 patent is directed to a Transmission Gear Wheel With Damping Capability which has nothing to do with the instant invention).

The Office Action observes that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 might be overcome by filing a declaration under Section 1.132 in which the inventors named in the patent state that the invention disclosed but not claimed in the patent and which is claimed in this application is derived from the inventors named in this application.

Enclosed herewith are declarations in which the inventors named in the patent state that the invention disclosed but not claimed in the patent and which is claimed in this application is

derived from the inventors named in this application. Also enclosed herewith is a Terminal Disclaimer disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent issued on this application that might extend beyond the term of US Patent 6,042,607.

Therefore, it is believed that the rejections based on 35 U.S.C. §103 are overcome. Accordingly, no further remarks will be directed to these rejections.

The Claims have been amended to overcome the rejection based on 35 U.S.C. §112, and the disclosure has been amended to correct the items identified in the Office Action. It is noted that support for the amendments made to the claims is found in the specification as filed in, *inter alia*, Abstract, Page 23 (lines 16-18), Figures 5 and 7 as well as other Figures; Page 27 (lines 23-24); Page 32 (line 25) through Page 33, line 13.

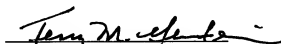
It is also noted that the "whereby" clauses have been omitted from Claims 19 and 20. Accordingly, no further comments will be directed to the objections made under 35 U.S.C. §112.

Enclosed herewith are proposed drawing corrections for the Examiner's review. It is respectfully requested that any requirement for correction of the formal drawings be held in abeyance until a notice of allowance is issued in this application. At that time, the formal drawings will be corrected.

The remaining references included with the Office Action have been reviewed. Applicant observes that none of these references has disclosure rendering the claimed invention unpatentable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, review and allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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December 21, 2000